Entry of foreign universities for imparting skills

†230. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of skilled workers at international level can be sorted out by creating skill among Indian youth;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether foreign universities will be allowed to enter the country for this; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to 'demographic dividend' that India has in terms of availability of human resources, demand for Indian skilled professionals is likely in foreign countries. Government does not maintain information about the shortage and requirement of such professionals in other countries.

(c) and (d) A legislative proposal to regulate the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government.

National Literacy Mission in low female literacy districts

231. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRTYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched National Literacy Mission with a special focus on 365 districts which have low female literacy level;

(b) if so, the parameters for identifying districts in the country where low female literacy levels exist;

(c) whether the gap of literacy levels in rural and urban areas are widening day by day; and

(d) if so, the new initiatives that would be taken to bridge the gap of rural and urban literacy levels particularly amongst females?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission, has been launched recently.

(b) Adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per census 2001, has been taken as the parameter for identifying the districts for coverage under the programme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Gap in urban and rural literacy rate was 28.39 in 1991 and it reduced to 21.18 in 2001. To further bridge this gap, the new programme is being implemented only in rural areas of eligible districts.

Cut off marks for JEE

232. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to raise the minimum of 60 per cent marks in class XII Board to 80 percent for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that a high score in class XII depends on many social and external factors like the school, its facilities, etc. and students coming from rural and small town schools will not be eligible for appearing in JEE if the cut off marks is raised to 80 per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, make recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating of class XII results with JEE results, would help students with rural backgrounds to get admission into IITs by reducing their dependence on coaching. Variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis.

Lateral entry into colleges

233. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) proposes to allow lateral entry into college faculties at higher salaries to attract best brains to higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of the UGC has since been cleared by Government; and